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(CIA)

(BY DANIEL GILMORE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) - CIA DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER SAID TODAY THE TRADITIONAL SPY HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT WITH THE TECHNICAL ADVANCES IN THE COLLECTION OF INTELLIGENCE.

TURNER, WHO HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR STRESSING SPY-IN-THE-SKY AND OTHER ELECTRONIC METHODS OF INTELLIGENCE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE HUMAN AGENT, TOLD AN OVERSEAS WRITERS LUNCHEON:

"OUR CAPABILITIES IN THE TECHNICAL AREA ARE BURGEONING. BUT RATHER THAN DENIGRATING THE VALUE OF THE TRADITIONAL SPY, TECHNICAL MEANS HAVE INCREASED HIS IMPORTANCE."

PHOTOGRAPHS AND COMMUNICATIONS MONITORING, HE SAID, "TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST BUT RAISES MORE QUESTIONS...WHY DID IT HAPPEN? WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?

"PLANS THAT MAY BE HINTED AT IN CONVERSATIONS, YOU TRY TO CONFIRM WITH PHOTOGRAPHS; OR IF YOU HAVE A PHOTO, YOU TARGET A HUMAN AGENT TO FIND THAT INFORMATION."

TURNER SAID HE DOES NOT THINK CIA AGENTS ARE LESS EFFECTIVE ABROAD NOW IN VIEW OF RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE WAKE OF PAST ABUSES.

"I CERTAINLY SEE NO LETUP ON COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES BY THE KGB (SOVIET INTELLIGENCE)," HE SAID. "THEY ARE VERY, VERY ACTIVE IN THAT FIELD."

TURNER SAID THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE ARM "IS STRONG AND CAPABLE...IT IS UNDERGOING SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE AND THAT IS NEVER AN EASY PROCESS."

ANSWERING QUESTIONS, THE CIA CHIEF SAID:

- HE DOES NOT THINK THE AGENCY FAILED IN PREDICTING EVENTS IN IRAN, "BUT I WOULD SAY I WOULD LIKE TO DO BETTER." HE CONCEDED INTELLIGENCE DID NOT SEE THAT AYATOLLAH RUHOLLAH KHOMEINI, THEN IN EXILE, WOULD COALESCE THE FORCES AGAINST THE SHAH, "NOR DID ANY OF US ANTICIPATE THAT WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN, THE SHAH...WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE DISSIDENTS."

- HE WOULD LIKE TO CUT DOWN THE NUMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES - NOW SEVEN - TO WHICH THE CIA MUST REPORT.

- THE CIA ALREADY HAS SPENT 116 MAN YEARS IN FULFILLING REQUESTS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, "INCLUDING A REQUEST FROM THE POLISH EMBASSY."

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